

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1136
By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Robert Wayne "Bob"
Ritchie of Knoxville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Robert Wayne "Bob" Ritchie; and

WHEREAS, Bob Ritchie was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who was justly lauded as one of the most respected and influential attorneys in East Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a native of Corbin, Kentucky, and the son of the late Wayne Allen Ritchie and Leida Stewart Ritchie, Robert Wayne Ritchie attended Western Kentucky University and the University of Tennessee College of Law; and

WHEREAS, after three years of distinguished service with the Judge Advocate General's Corps of the United States Army, Bob Ritchie returned to Knoxville and founded his own law practice, which now, forty years later, is the highly successful law firm of Ritchie, Dillard & Davies; and

WHEREAS, renowned for his keen insight and wisdom as a top criminal attorney, Mr. Ritchie was a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL) since 1985 and served as Chairman of the ACTL Federal Criminal Procedures Committee from 1996-1999; and

WHEREAS, highly respected and greatly admired by his peers in the legal profession, Robert Wayne Ritchie was a former president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL), the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (TACDL), and the Knoxville Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, in 1997, the Knoxville Bar Association awarded him its highest honor, the Governor's Award, recognizing his professional achievement and community commitment; and

WHEREAS, a recognized expert in his field, Mr. Ritchie taught at the University of Tennessee College of Law and the National Criminal Defense College, lectured at seminars, and participated in trial demonstrations for the American Bar Association, NACDL, and numerous state and local bar associations and other colleges of law; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ritchie was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of forty-six years, Beverly Joan Belcher Ritchie, and was the proud father of son, Wayne Allen Ritchie, and his wife, Margaret Morton Ritchie, and daughter, Sara Leigh Ritchie Morgan, and her husband, Phillip Edwin Morgan, and devoted grandfather of Bobby, Johnny, and Laura Leighanne Morgan and Natalie and Robert Ritchie; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ritchie will be sadly mourned but fondly remembered by his brother, Wilson Stewart Ritchie, and his wife, Nancy Rhea Ritchie; his sister, Laura Rose Collins, and her husband, Herbert Kyle Collins; his aunt, Mrs. Ralph (Jean) Ritchie; and many dear nieces, nephews, and cousins; and

WHEREAS, Bob Ritchie leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Robert Wayne Ritchie, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Ritchie.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.